

Lake Superior - Waterpower October 12, 1886

Hill to R. V. Martinsen, New York

Water power at places on Lake Superior is not valuable. No prospects of flour-milling there "Flour is now manufactured on a very small margin, say ten or fifteen cents a barrel, and this margin is largely, if not wholly made up by the sale of bran and shorts and other offal for feeding cattle. The country around the Sault not being a cattle country, there would be no market for those commodities.² "With a few others I am interested in three fifths of the power at Minneapolis, and we find even there in a city of 150,000 people but very little use for water power." "The completion of the railroad from

Saint Paul to Sault Ste Marie will not materially change this [low value of waterpower at Sault] It is more than 100 miles farther than to Chicago." The present rates from Minneapolis to Chicago on wheat and flour are 7½ cents per hundred & I think within another year it will be down to 6¼ cents and the leading millers at Minneapolis do not expect to ship much if any of their flour by that route ["the Sault"] is written over "that route."]

JJH LetterBook, 3/22/86 - 10/22/86, p. 483